

West Pope House  
97 Williams Street  
Providence  
Providence County  
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-249

HABS  
RI,  
4-PROV,  
146-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-249

## WEST POPE HOUSE

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Address: 97 Williams Street, Providence, Providence County,  
Rhode Island.  
Plat 16, lot 233. 36 Williams Street  
in 1836; 54 Williams Street in 1857; 57 Williams  
Street in 1892; 97 Williams Street since 1895.

Present Owner: Mrs. Phillip C. Hardy

Present Occupants: Mr. and Mrs. Phillip C. Hardy and various tenants.

Present Use: Residence for owners with several rooms rented to  
others.

Brief Statement  
of Significance: This is an example of a medium large, brick house  
of about 1800. It is one of an unusual series of  
houses built on Williams Street at this time on  
leased land with certain building restrictions  
stipulated in the lease.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Original and subsequent owners:

1797 Peles and Rebekah Williams appoint William Holroyd  
as trustee and "hereby acknowledge the love and affection  
we bear to the family of said William Holroyd"...Deed Book  
30, page 399 in Providence City Hall.

1798 William Holroyd as attorney for Peles and Rebekah  
Williams leases to West Pope land bounded: S by Ashton 50'  
N 6 1/2' from and  
parallel with  
Williams Street 50'  
E by land this day  
leased to Cromwell  
Barney

Lease may be renewed and is leased for 20 years at \$25 yearly  
rental. "West Pope is to erect a house, outside to be of  
brick"...Deed Book 25, page 569 in Providence City Hall.

1801 FIRE RECORD To West Pope..Brick..S side of street,  
3 stories high.. 37' in front and 35' front to rear. 4 chimneys.  
Generally keeps 3 fires. Lightning rods are to be affixed  
this Fall...Mss. fire insurance records of the Providence  
Mutual Insurance Company at the offices of the Providence  
Washington Insurance Company, Providence, R. I. Vol. 1,  
policy #101.

1805 West Pope, bricklayer, for \$4750 sells to Jonathan Addams and Zebediah Lothrop, merchants, bounded:

S by John or Ashton Street 50'  
W by gangway and C Barney 210'  
E by Adams & Lothrop and Reb Williams  
with brick DWELLING HOUSE...Deed Book 29, page 300 in  
Providence City Hall.

1806 Zebediah Lothrop sells for \$2000 to Jonathan Addams  
all my interest in house and land which grantors purchased  
of West Pope and where grantee now lives...Deed Book 30, page  
184 in Providence City Hall.

1806 Jonathan Adams sells for \$2000 to West Pope 1/2  
of lot of land and 1/2 of Brick DWELLING HOUSE standing  
thereon. Bounded:

W by Lane  
S by John Street 50' to land belonging  
to Zebediah Lothrop  
N by Williams Street 50'..... Deed Book 30, page 223  
in Providence City Hall.

1807 FIRE RECORD To West Pope for \$1600..his part of  
DWELLING HOUSE where he now lives. Brick..19' front..35'  
front to rear. 3 stories high...ALSO Jonathan Addams...  
for \$2400 E part of DWELLING HOUSE now owned by himself and  
West Pope....Mss. fire insurance records of the Providence  
Mutual Insurance Company at the Rhode Island Historical  
Society, Providence, R. I. Vol. #2, policy #537.

1827 Richard W Greene, attorney, for Jonathan Addams,  
sells for \$4073.80 to Welcome A Burgess and William R Greene  
the property bounded N by Williams Street and extends to  
John Street, holding the width...Deed Book 54, page 174  
in Providence City Hall.

1833 Eleanor Burgess sells for \$4250 to John H Clarke  
land with buildings the premises being the same conveyed to  
W R Greene and W Burgess by Richard W Greene as assignees  
of Jonathan Adams in 1827...Deed Book 65, page 223 in  
Providence City Hall.

1834 John H Clarke lives here and his family was here  
until 1895

1843 John H Clarke to George B Holmes..an INDENTURE...  
"also the Homestead Estate fronting N on Williams Street"...  
Deed Book 85, page 326 in Providence City Hall.

1845 George B Holmes gives a quit claim to John H  
Clarke Estate Occupied by said Clarke Bounded:

N by Williams Street  
W by gangway  
S by land of John D Jones  
E by gangway

...Deed Book 97, page 241, in Providence City Hall.

1903 Jennie Clarke sells to William S Hutchinson lot  
devised by will to grantor by her sisters Susan C and Amey  
H Clarke and being same devised by them by their father John  
H Clarke conveyed to him by Eleanor Burgess, being #233 on  
Plat 16, ALSO meaning to release ownership adjoining E (#491)  
...Deed Book 457, page 271 in Providence City Hall.

1903 William S Hutchinson to Harriet L Rice quit claims:  
Property on the S S [south side] of Williams Street between  
Benefit and Thayer on the S/E corner of Neighbors Lane.  
Bounded:

S by George W Benedict 50'  
W by Neighbors Lane 112'  
E by Jennie Clarke  
N by Williams Street 50'

It being the same conveyed to grantor by Jennie M Clarke in  
1903...Deed Book 458, page 260 in Providence City Hall.

1905 The property was taxed to Harriet L Pitman wf of  
Stephen M. It changes ownership several times and was taxed  
to the following persons in the years designated

1914	Elena Brown	1952	Mary C V Simonds
1935	Hope R Hall	1953	W R Batty & wife Ruth
1947	Godfrey B Simonds	1955	Blanche D Burgess
	and wf Mary		
1955	Marjorie Hardy [Mrs. Phillip C Hardy]		

B. Date of erection: 1798-1801

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey  
for the Providence Preservation Society  
May 1963

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is an example of a medium large, brick house of the period about 1800.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: Main block 37' (five-bay front) x 35', three stories high. Large later wing on the east side extending well beyond the rear of the house, built at different times, partly one story, partly two stories high.
2. Foundations: Fieldstone on sides and rear, regular coarsed ashlar on the front
3. Wall construction: Brick, common bond; brick belt courses between stories; slightly projecting center pavilion.
4. Porches: Small, later, Greek Revival entrance porch; single, wood Doric column at each front corner; flat pilasters at the house wall.
5. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys in end walls of main block, two in wing.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Doorway with side lights and top light forms a part of the entrance porch. Six-panel door, Greek Revival detail.
  - b. Windows: Double-hung windows, six-light sash, flat brick arches with molded brick keystones, wood sills.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape: Low pitched hip roof.
  - b. Cornice: Heavy deep modillion cornice, probably added later.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Main block: central-hall plan, four principal rooms per floor on all three floors.
2. Stairways: Stairway from first to second floor at rear of central hall, not original. Stairway from second to third floor at front of central hall is original, open well, open string, straight run, light scale, molded hand rail, slender rectangular balusters, plain step ends.
3. Flooring: Some original wide board flooring on third floor; flooring in most other areas replaced.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. Unusual coved ceilings on third floor in central hallway, the four principal rooms, and also in two small rooms on either side of the central hallway. Some molded or decorated ceiling cornices.
5. Doorways and doors: Double molded, mitered architraves on doorways. Six-panel doors, raised panels.
6. Trim: Molded wood chair rail. Paneled interior shutters on windows.
7. Hardware: Many original case locks with drop latches in place of knobs.
8. Lighting: Electric
9. Heating: Central heating. Fireplaces remain in most principal rooms, with one-story wood mantels typical of the period, mostly with mantel shelves and deep friezes, some elaborated with paneling and carved work.

- D. Site: The house faces north on the sidewalk line on a narrow level lot, narrow alley on the west, wing projects to the rear at the east side, small garden at the southwest corner of the lot.

Prepared by Osmond R. Overby  
Yale University  
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